

Stanley, Talbot, Herbert, and Eegina went in a party with the Chesterfields, Ansons, and Woicesters. We flattered ourselves we were by far the most distinguished there. Lady Chesterfield was a Sultana, and Mrs. Anson a Greek, with her own hair lower than the calf of her leg. She was the most brilliant in the room. Lady Burghersh, Lady Fitzroy Somerset, and Lady Sykes wore powder—the two first Louis XIV., the last a complete copy of a Sir Joshua. Lady Londonderry,¹ as Cleopatra, was in a dress literally embroidered with emeralds and diamonds from top to toe. Castlereagh introduced me to her by her desire, and I was with her a great deal. Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Blackwood beautiful Greeks ; but the finest thing was that at half-past two Lyndhurst gave a supper in George Street to eighty of the supremest *ton* and beauty, and you can conceive nothing more brilliant than his house illuminated with a banquet to a company so fancifully dressed. The Duke of Wellington, who was at the ball, was too tired to come. This great secession, rather knocked up the ball, however, and everybody looked blue who was not going to Lyndhurst's. He looked like a French marshal. Wilton was Philip IV., and the Duke lent him his Golden Fleece set in diamonds for the evening.

July 24.

I have since dined at Rosebank with the Londonderrys. 'Tis the prettiest baby-house in the world — a pavilion rather than a villa, all green paint, white chintz, and looking-glass. The grounds, however, are considerable, and very rich, bordering the Thames. The dinner was admirable, but no plate; porcelain, fresh as the room, with a bouquet by every guest, and five immense pyramids of roses down the table. . . . Lyndhurst was quite delighted with his visit, and certainly Bradenham never looked to greater advantage. Yesterday he and I went to Richmond.

Aug. 5.

I can hardly trust myself to write about politics; the debate² was dashing in the extreme. Lyndhurst's speech by far the crack one—most bold and triumphant, and

¹ Daughter and heiress of Sir Henry Vane-Tempest and second wife of the 3rd Marquis of Londonderry.

^a Of August 3 in the Lords, on the motion that the House should go into Committee on the Municipal Corporations Bill, An amend ment was moved from the Tory benches that the House, which had already heard counsel in behalf of the corporations, should now receive evidence, and this amendment, supported by Lyndhurst, was carried against the Government. «